

## **Quality Counts for Kids Task Force Meeting**

September 13, 2004

**Task Force Members Attendance:** Task Force Chair: Ann Terrell-Milwaukee Affiliate, NBCDI Board of Directors, Mary Babula-Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, Gershia Coggs-Child Care Providers Helper, Shelley Cousin-Wisconsin Head Start Association, Dave Edie-UW-Extension Wisconsin Child Care Research Partnership, Lisa Furseth-Wisconsin Community Action Program, Tammy Hammell-Knowledge Learning Corporation, Dana Harmel-Wisconsin Family Child Care Association Representative, Jane Ilgen-Wisconsin Child Care Improvement Project, Laura Klingelhoets-Wisconsin Child Care Administrators Association Representative, Sandy Leibfried-Southwest Wisconsin CCR&R, Joyce Mallory-Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, Jose Martinez-United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc., Carol Maurer-4C Community Coordinated Child Care, M. Judy Mays-Dusk 2 Dawn Child Care, Mary Motquin-Intertribal Child Care Council, Mike Poma-Milwaukee County Department of Human Services, Jane Robinson-The Registry, Barb Schuler-Wisconsin Technical College System Office, Kari Stroede-Satellite Family Child Care

**Absent:** Lisa Turnbull-Sawyer County Department of Human Services

**Task Force Staff Attendance:** Laura Saterfield-Department of Workforce Development, Child Care Section Chief, DWD Staff: Alan Sweet, Kath McGurk, Linda Leonhart, Jane Penner-Hoppe, Department of Health and Family Services Staff: Anne Carmody, Julia Strong, Department of Administration Staff: Erin Fath

**Task Force Early Childhood Community Experts:** Pam Boulton-UW Milwaukee, Diane Adams, Mary Roach and Jason Bierbrauer-UW-Extension Research Partnership

**Task Force Visitors:** Michelle Bethke, Susan Bohn, Pat Hernandez, Rhonda Mitchell, Carmen Rivers, Patrick Steliga, Pirkko Zweifel

### **Call to Order**

Ann Terrell, Chair of the *Quality Counts for Kids* Task Force called the meeting to order. Introductions were made. Ann provided a brief review of the Task Force ground rules and reviewed the Task Force charge as indicated by Governor Doyle: "To help develop a rating system that will give child care providers incentives to go above and beyond the basic standards of quality". Ann reminded the Task force of the remaining meeting scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup>, and provided Task Force Members with the KidsFirst Project Timeline which provided an overview of the activities and targeted dates for the implementation of the Quality Ratings/Tiered Reimbursement Program. Ann urged Task Force Members to keep focused on working towards the goal of completing action on a recommendation by September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Ann asked for a review of the meeting minutes from the August 18, 2004 Task Force Meeting. Mary Babula moved and Jose Martinez seconded that the minutes of the meeting be approved. Motion passed.

The 8/18/04 Task Force Decisions Made document was reviewed, and edits were made to statement number 5 by Task Force Members. The maximum number of points value was removed from each category. With this change, Carol Maurer moved and Barb Schuler seconded that the Decisions Made document be approved. Motion passed.

### **Regulatory Compliance**

Julie Strong provided a PowerPoint presentation on Regulatory Compliance. Regulatory compliance principles were reviewed. The determination of regulatory compliance will be:

- ❖ Fair,
- ❖ Easy for programs, parents and public to understand,
- ❖ Easy to determine,

- ❖ Consistently applied across program types, and
- ❖ Promotes and enhances quality child care practices.

The monitoring process for determining regulatory compliance must be consistent across programs. The Bureau of Regulation and Licensing is working closely with the Child Care Section to ensure that certification and licensing monitoring and regulatory practices will be similar. Pirkko Zweifel provided additional information to the Task Force Members on the current certification process.

Two primary components of Regulatory Compliance have been identified by DHFS/BRL:

- 1.) Enforcement Action
- 2.) Serious Non-Compliance

Specific rules that address critical health and safety provisions will be identified as indicative of a serious non-compliance. DHFS/BRL will work with state licensors, and will be inclusive of child care program organizations and statewide agencies, to ensure language interpretation and examples of criteria are developed.

Task Force Members asked DHFS/BRL to develop examples of some serious non-compliance acts and also to develop examples of what a serious non-compliance does not look like. These examples have been requested for the September 20<sup>th</sup> Task Force Meeting.

Implementation issues and regulatory compliance issues must be developed together to ensure that policy interpretations are applied accurately and consistently.

Task Force Member Discussion:

- ❖ Providers need to receive consistent information, and regulatory compliance must be interpreted fairly and consistently across the state.
- ❖ What is the period of time that regulatory compliance issues will be reviewed? Information must be prepared for child care providers prior to implementation of this system, so that providers are aware of what will be reviewed, and what time frame the review will be completed in. Sufficient time to develop and implement a plan for program improvement must be included.
- ❖ Are current DHFS/BRL licensing staff from a varied and diverse background to reflect the culture and ethnicity of providers across the state?
- ❖ Task Force Members indicate that a more developed framework for the definition and application of regulatory compliance should be made available prior to the public hearing process. Concern was expressed that child care programs and providers will be nervous about this definition and the implementation of this compliance definition.
- ❖ Task Force Members suggested that "Guiding Principles" be developed to encourage statewide consistency in the interpretation of the Regulatory Compliance definition.

### **Background Briefing on the Child Care Subsidy Program**

Alan Sweet presented a PowerPoint presentation on "Child Care Subsidy 101". Task Force Members received a broad overview of the current child care subsidy program, including detailed information on the SFY 2004 Direct Child Care Expenditures.

Task Force Members had the following discussions:

- ❖ Current DHFS/BRL automation and current DWD/CCS automation -how can these two systems be linked in the future to assure that the most accurate information on child care programs is available?
- ❖ Is fraud information collected in an automated format? Currently benefit recovery information, including program integrity and overpayment history, is collected in the child care payment system.
- ❖ Is it possible to provide incentives to high quality programs (example – five star programs) such as the opportunity for 12 month authorizations, or 12 month parent review periods? Current CCS project activity includes examination of the Food Stamp Policy and face to face review periods.
- ❖ Supportive services will be needed for family child care providers (certified and licensed) to ensure that programs will understand the goal of program quality improvement.

### **Tiered Reimbursement Impact Simulation**

Jason Bierbrauer provided a PowerPoint presentation to Task Force Members. Jason's presentation used the Quality Rating System Option 5 (Revised "Hybrid Model") that Task Force Members selected as the recommended Quality Rating Scale. Data sources used for the presentation included the DWD child care program, the DHFS licensing program, Accreditation program information and information from The Registry.

A "teacher qualification calculator" was developed to identify a set level of points as determined by the licensed capacity of the program, the number of teaching staff at the program, and the individual educational level of the teachers. Task Force Members saw this as a useful tool for child care programs to access in the future to determine their current "Teacher Qualification" points value, and also to develop recruitment strategies for future planning to reach higher teacher qualification points value.

Jason's presentation identified two main questions:

- 1.) At what level should the current base rate be set?
- 2.) What differential of payment should be between each tier?

These questions will be reviewed and it is envisioned that they will be answered at the September 20<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting.

Task Force Members discussed the impact of reducing payment levels to child care programs/providers that currently meet licensing standards (example level 2).

- ❖ Will these programs work to achieve higher quality or will they no longer provide services?
- ❖ Will level 1 child care programs/providers go out of business when significant payment decreases are made?
- ❖ Will programs that are designated at level one contact their legislators, and other policy makers, to complain about the program?
- ❖ Should programs that meet minimal licensing health and safety standards receive the current payment rate (i.e., the "base")?
- ❖ Are these programs demonstrating quality experiences for children?
- ❖ Will some programs that are designated at lower levels of quality go out of business? Will programs with higher quality ratings see increased enrollment?
- ❖ Parent choice and parent understanding of quality rating scales will be important.
- ❖ If the quality indicators rating scale is successful in moving child care programs to higher quality, it will become a more costly program in the future.

### **Outstanding Quality Rating Scale Issues**

Mary Babula moved that Quality Rating Scale Option 5 be approved for the Public Hearing Process. Dave Edie and Joyce Mallory seconded this motion. Discussion occurred between Task Force Members indicating that the Rating Scale was not interpreted the same by all Task Force Members. Motion Failed.

Task Force Members agreed that at the September 20<sup>th</sup> Task Force Meeting it will be necessary to review and approve components and associated points values within the Quality Rating Scale Option 5. Task Force Members will need to make final decisions on individual component requirements and the Tiered Reimbursement Structure, including identification of base rate placement and differential payment in order for information to be developed by staff and accessible for the October Public Hearing Process.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

The following meetings have been scheduled:

<b>Monday, September 20, 2004</b>	9.00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Draft Outline Report Reviewed, Review of DHFS/BRL "Regulatory Compliance" Example Language, Final Decision on Quality Indicator Option 5 components
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and associated points values, Final Decision on Tiered Reimbursement

**Public Hearing Dates:**

Friday, October 15, 2004 – LaCrosse

WECA Conference -LaCrosse Center, 300 Harborview Plaza, South Exhibition Hall, LaCrosse  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 20, 2004 – Milwaukee Area Technical College

700 W. State Street, Milwaukee, Room S120, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 26, 2004 – Wausau – North Central Technical College

1000 W. Campus Drive, Wausau, Room D101, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

<b>Monday, November 15, 2004</b>	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Review Public Hearing Comments
<b>Monday, December 6, 2004</b>	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Final Recommendation for the Governor

9 13 04 Task Force Meeting Minutes  
Kath McGurk  
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